United Nations ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.1/2018/1

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Economic Commission for Europe

Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards

Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards

Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables
Sixty-sixth session
Geneva, 30 April–2 May 2018
Item 1 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda

Provisional agenda and annotations *

Session to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva.

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Matters arising since the last session.
3. Revision of standards.
4. Standard Layout for United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Standards for Fresh Fruit and Vegetables.
5. Sustainable Development Goal 12 and sustainable practices: Food loss related to the use of standards.
6. Code mark registry.
7. Electronic quality certificates for fresh fruit and vegetables.
8. Promotion and capacity-building.

* Delegates attending the meetings are invited to register online at https://uncdb.unece.org/app/ext/meeting-registration?id=d1afET or contact the secretariat by e-mail (Stephen.hatem@unece.org) for a registration form. Documents for the meeting and information will be made available online at http://www.unece.org/ffv-66th-2018.html.

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9. Other business.

10. Future work.

11. Election of officers.

12. Adoption of the report.

II. Annotations

1. Adoption of the agenda

The delegations will adopt the agenda.

Documentation: Annotated provisional agenda (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.1/2018/1)

2. Matters arising since the last session

(a) United Nations, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and subsidiary bodies

The secretariat will present recent matters arising from the United Nations, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards and the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards (WP.7) having an impact on the work of the Specialized Section.

Documentation: Report of the seventy-third session of the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2017/2)

(b) Recent developments in other organizations

Representatives of other organizations and country delegations will inform the Specialized Section about activities taking place in their agencies that are of relevance to the work of the Section.

As they agreed at the 2017 session of the Working Party, delegations are invited to discuss the activities by the Codex Alimentarius Commission of relevance to the Specialized Section.

3. Revision of standards

(a) Citrus fruit

At its 2017 session, the Specialized Section decided to initiate a full review of the standard and to consider proposals, comments and submissions from the 2016 and 2017 sessions. The reflection of 2016 that the integrity of the citrus fruit standard could be kept, while separate annexes for each species could simplify its use could provide the basis for this revision. The Specialized Section is invited to review the revised draft standard prepared by the Rapporteur (South Africa), which incorporates the comments received in 2016 and 2017, as well as proposals to align with the Codex provisions substantively deviating from the UNECE provisions.

Documentation: Revised UNECE Standard for Citrus fruit (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.1/2018/3)

(b) Cherries

At its 2017 session, the Specialized Section decided to discuss the comments by the delegation from Belgium on the minimum size for cherries.

Documentation: Comments by the delegation from Belgium on size tolerances for cherries (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.1/2018/4)

UNECE Standard for Cherries (FFV-13)

(c) Ware potatoes

At its 2016 session, the Specialized Section had accepted the proposal by India to compare the proposed new Codex draft standard with the existing UNECE Standard for Early and Ware Potatoes. The following document presents a comparison between the Codex draft standard (currently at step 5) and the UNECE standard.

Comments pertaining solely to the UNECE standard are included in a separate document.

Documentation: Comparison between the UNECE Standard for Early and Ware Potatoes and Codex Draft Standard for Ware Potatoes (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.1/2018/5)

Comments - UNECE Standard for Early and Ware Potatoes (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.1/2018/6)

UNECE Standard for Early and Ware potatoes (FFV-52)

(d) Table grapes – List of varieties

The Specialized Section is invited to review the revised list of table grape varieties prepared by the Rapporteur (South Africa).

Documentation: Revised list of table grape varieties (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.1/2018/7)

(e) Peaches and nectarines

The Specialized Section is invited to review the proposal by the United States to revise the sizing provisions in the Standard for Peaches and Nectarines.

Documentation: Proposal to revise the Standard for peaches and nectarines (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.1/2018/8)

(f) Fresh figs

The Rapporteur (Brazil) will provide an update on new developments concerning how to handle white coating on fresh figs and the minimum requirement "clean".

(g) Other standards

Depending on the requests for revisions from delegations, the Specialized Section may wish to consider other standards as well as possible items that impact on UNECE work because of decisions taken by the 2017 Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables.

4. Standard Layout for United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Standards for Fresh Fruit and Vegetables

At its 2017 session, the Specialized Section decided to continue the discussion on a possible simplification of the section on tolerances and their application. To provide background for

the review of that section, the delegation from the United States will give a detailed presentation on the topic and the delegation from Germany will explain how the OECD inspection guidelines provide guidance on how to determine the tolerances through e.g. photos.

Moreover, the Specialized Section is invited to consider the addition of the indication of the importer or seller in the Identification section of the provisions concerning marking (section VI.A). Identification, as well as items that might impact on UNECE work because of decisions taken by the Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables in October 2017.

Documentation: Standard Layout for UNECE standards on fresh fruit and vegetables

5. Sustainable Development Goal 12 and sustainable practices: Food loss related to the use of standards

At its 2017 session, the Specialized Section decided to initiate work on draft baseline quality requirements. The delegations from Germany will present a first draft for review and discussion by the Specialized Section.

The Specialized Section had also started working on a Code of Good Practice to help guide and ensure quality along the marketing and supply chain. The delegation from Sweden - as leader of the working group - will present a first draft for review.

Documentation: Draft baseline quality requirements (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.1/2018/9)

Draft code of good practice (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.1/2018/10)

6. Code mark registry

The secretariat will provide an update on the UNECE code mark registry established at the beginning of 2018 after adoption by the November 2017 Working Party session

7. Electronic quality certificates for fresh fruit and vegetables

The secretariat will inform the Specialized Section on progress made in the area of electronic quality certificates and the collaboration with the relevant group of the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) which had been approached at the September 2017 CEFACT Forum in Rome, Italy.

8. Promotion and capacity-building

Delegations and the secretariat will provide information about their promotional and capacity-building activities and preview planned new events and training.

9. Other business

Any other issues of interest for the work of the Specialized Section can be discussed under this agenda item.

10. Future work

The Specialized Section will discuss its future work.

11. Election of officers

The Specialized Section will elect a Chair and Vice-Chair. At its sixty-fifth session, it elected Ms. Ulrike Bickelmann (Germany) as Chair and Ms. Kristina Mattsson (Sweden) as Vice-Chair.

12. Adoption of the report

The Specialized Section will adopt the report of the session.

III. Tentative timetable

Monday, 30 April	10:00 – 13:00	Working session (no interpretation)
Monday, 30 April	15:00 - 18:00	Items 1-3
Tuesday, 1 May	10:00 - 13:00	Items 3-5
	15:00 - 18:00	Items 5-9
Wednesday, 2 May	10:00 - 13:00	Items 10-12